NO. 2

ONI PRESS

SPIRIT OF THE SHADOWS

DANIEL ZIEGLER

NICK CAGNETTI

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SPIRIT OF THE SHADOWS

STORY
DANIEL ZIEGLER
& NICK CAGNETTI

SCRIPT
DANIEL ZIEGLER

ART & COLORS
NICK CAGNETTI

LETTERS
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ERIK LEROUX IS DEAD!

THE SPIRIT OF THE SHADOWS IS NO MORE.

DEAD? THAT COMPLICATES THINGS.

THAT IS, OF COURSE IF YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH.

I SWEAR.

NOW THE KNIFE CAN TELL.

SPEAK THE *TRUTH* AND YOU HAVE NOTHING TO *FEAR.*

SPEAK A *LIE* AND IT SHALL PLUNGE ITSELF INTO YOUR *HEART.*

AH!

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

DR. *HYDE PERKINS.*

HOW DID YOU KNOW *ERIK LEROUX?*

HE... HELD ME *CAPTIVE* HERE. MADE ME DO HIS BIDDING.

IS HE REALLY *DEAD?*

YES. I *BURIED* HIM JUST *TODAY* IN THE CEMETERY DOWN THERE.

YOU HEAR THAT, *HARUSPEX?* HE DIED RECENTLY.

THIS MAY NOT BE OVER AFTER ALL.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WITCHCRAFT ALLOWS US CERTAIN CONTROL OVER THE DEAD.

BUT ONLY FOR A *BRIEF WINDOW* AFTER THE SPIRIT'S DEPARTURE.

WHEN MY *SISTER* WAS PRESUMED *DEAD* AND NOTHING ELSE OFFERED A CURE FOR MY *GRIEF*...

...I TURNED TO *WITCHCRAFT* IN HOPES OF BRINGING HER BACK TO LIFE.

BUT WHEN I LEARNED OF THE SPELL'S *TIME CONSTRAINT*...

...IT WAS ALREADY *TOO LATE* FOR HER.

BUT IT'S *NOT* TOO LATE FOR ERIK.

WE CAN STILL BRING HIM BACK AND INFLICT A FATE *WORSE* THAN DEATH.

YOU WOULDN'T!

SNATCH!

SLAM

I WOULD AND I SHALL.

AND I'M AFRAID YOUR *VALUE* HAS *RUN OUT*, MR. PERKINS.

JUST TO BE SAFE.

AND YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING OF YOUR LIFE?

JUST THE *BASICS.* MY NAME, MY FAMILY.

DID YOU READ YOUR *BOOK* BEFORE IT WAS *DESTROYED?*

ONLY THE *BEGINNING.* BORN INTO A SMALL FAMILY. LOVING PARENTS.

OLDER SISTER, *HELENA.*

BUT NOTHING ABOUT YOUR *DEATH?*

I DIDN'T GET THAT FAR.

LOOK, MORE PAGES!

CAN I SEE?

I... SUPPOSE.

AFTER MEETING *KATRINA* AT A PARTY, SHE INVITED ME TO *PERFORM* FOR HER DANCE GROUP.

TERAMERE BALLET COMPANY

Come play where it's appreciated! -K

IS THAT HER?

YES. MY BELOVED KATRINA.

I CAN SEE WHY YOU FELL FOR HER.

ERIK! WE NEED YOUR PHOTOGRAPH FOR OUR PROGRAM.

SNAP

KATRINA!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

WASN'T HE AT THE PARTY? WHO IS HE?

WELL, *RUPERT* IS MY...

I'M SUPPOSED TO *MARRY* HIM...

I'M SORRY.

IT'S *NOT* WHAT I WANT.

YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN THAT.

YOU'D THINK A ***FORCED ENGAGEMENT*** WOULD HAVE BEEN THE ***END*** OF IT.

BUT WE BOTH KNEW SHE DIDN'T ***BELONG*** IN THAT LIFE.

AND WE JUST COULDN'T HELP OURSELVES.

IT'S A FAMILY *HEIRLOOM.*

I PROMISED MYSELF I'D ONLY GIVE IT AWAY IF I FOUND SOMEONE *PERFECT.*

NOW I FINALLY *HAVE.*

OH ERIK, IT'S *BEAUTIFUL.* ARE YOU SURE?

MORE THAN EVER.

I HAVEN'T HEARD THIS PIECE BEFORE.

THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S *MINE.*

I CALL IT *"SONATA FOR KATRINA."*

FOR ME? OH ERIK...

YOU'VE GIVEN ME *EVERYTHING* I NEVER KNEW I NEEDED.

BUT ALL I'VE GIVEN YOU IS A *DIFFICULT* TIME.

THEN LET ME MAKE THIS *EASY* FOR YOU!

KATRINA, INSIDE!

YES, FATHER.

YOU, SIT!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IDEAS SHE'S BEEN GIVING YOU, BUT SHE IS ***ENGAGED.***

IT'S ***OVER,*** BOY.

I KNOW.

THEN WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

SNEAKING AROUND TOGETHER, PLAYING FOR HER DANCE GROUP.

IT'S ***DEPRAVED.***

BUT HAVE YOU ASKED HER WHAT SHE ***WANTS?***

I DON'T CARE WHAT SHE WANTS! I ***KNOW*** WHAT SHE ***NEEDS.***

SURELY HER ***MOTHER*** CARES?

YOU DON'T KNOW?

HER MOTHER *DIED* WHEN SHE WAS BORN.

I'M *ALL* SHE HAS.

I'M...SORRY.

I DIDN'T REALIZE.

THERE'S *A LOT* YOU DON'T REALIZE, SO YOU'D BETTER *STAY OUT* OF IT!

YOU DON'T WANT TO PICK A *FIGHT* WITH THE *MAYOR OF TERAMERE!*

YOU'LL LOSE!

IF YOU SPEAK TO MY KATRINA ONE MORE TIME, JUST *ONCE* MORE...

...I CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ACTIONS. UNDERSTAND?

DO YOU THINK YOU LISTENED TO HIM?

I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT WAS THE *END* OF IT.

OOOSHH

WE'RE ALMOST *HOME,* MY PET.

HOW DO WE *PUNISH* A MAN WHO NO LONGER FEARS *DEATH?*

HERE'S SOMETHING...

The Spirit Suppress

To terminate a Spirit

ending its thread

in all of the realms,

both living and dead.

But due to the Power that's being possessed,

the Spell only Casts by the Spirit's request.

IT'S *PERFECT!*

BUT HOW COULD WE EVER COMPEL HIM TO ***REQUEST*** HIS OWN EXTINCTION?

A ***CONCERN*** FOR LATER, PERHAPS.

FIRST I SHALL ***BRING HIM BACK*** WITH A SIMPLE ***RESURRECTION SPELL.*** THEN, ONCE I GET TO KNOW HIM...

...I SHALL EXPLOIT HIS ***WEAKNESSES*** TO TRICK HIM INTO IT.

COME, HARUSPEX. WE HAVE A ***GRAVE*** TO FIND.

LOOK OUT!

OH, I FOUND SOME OF *YOUR PAGES,* BY THE WAY.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE *JUDGMENT HALL!*

WHAT IS IT?

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL THEM TO BE ***CAREFUL*** WITH THESE THINGS UP THERE?

A ***GHOSTIFIER*** IN THE WRONG HANDS COULD SPELL ***CHAOS!***

YOU MEAN IT'S REALLY POSSIBLE TO ***GO BACK*** AS A GHOST?

NOT FOR YOU.

GHOSTLY VISITS TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING ARE A ***PRIVILEGE*** STRICTLY FOR THOSE IN THE ***SACRED REALM.***

DOES IT SAY IF YOU STILL WENT AFTER HER?

IT WOULD APPEAR SO.

IN FACT, I THINK WE GOT ***CLOSER*** THAN EVER.

SHH!

THIS IS IT...

IT'S LIKE A *DREAM.*

MAYBE. BUT IT'S MORE *FUN* THAT WAY.

WHY NOT?

RUPERT. YOUR FATHER. THERE'S *NOTHING* FOR US HERE.

OUT THERE WE CAN HAVE A *CHANCE.*

I'LL FOLLOW YOU

A NICE THOUGHT.

I BELIEVE WE HAVE A SONG TO FINISH.

WILL HE HEAR US?

LET'S ***RUN OFF*** TOGETHER.

TOMORROW NIGHT, AFTER THE SHOW.

WHAT?!

WANTED
MALPRACTICE

DR. HYDE PERKINS

TERAMERE BALLET COMPANY

XMAS SHOW

BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME WE ***NEVER*** GOT THAT CHANCE.

BLAM

YOU WERE *MURDERED?!*

BY WHO?!

IT DOESN'T SAY.

I DON'T THINK I EVER SAW.

SO THAT'S HOW YOU ENDED UP HERE.

NO, IT CAN'T BE. I DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THIS YET.

AND THESE PAGES AREN'T FROM THE *END* OF MY BOOK.

THEY'RE FROM THE *MIDDLE!*

WHICH MEANS, SOMEHOW...

I CAME BACK TO LIFE!

MY DEAR SISTER.

ALL THESE YEARS AND THE BURDEN OF MY *GUILT* HAS NEVER LESSENED.

MISSIN

ISSI

MISSING

I'VE RELIVED THAT NIGHT A *THOUSAND* TIMES IN MY HEAD.

ING

I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT WE WERE *ARGUING* ABOUT.

WHEN YOU NEVER CAME BACK FROM YOUR WALK, ALL I WISHED WAS TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

TO CLEAR MY *CONSCIENCE* OF THE WAY WE LEFT THINGS.

ZARP

NOW I KNOW I'LL NEVER HAVE THAT *CHANCE,* DESPITE MY *EFFORTS.*

BUT IF I CAN'T HAVE CLOSURE, I'LL SETTLE FOR *REVENGE.*

ERIK LEROUX

WE MEET AT LAST, O FEARSOME *SPIRIT OF THE SHADOWS!*

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
RUN!
VROOM!

ERIK LEROUX!

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING!

ERIK!

PLOP

THE LAND OF THE LIVING?

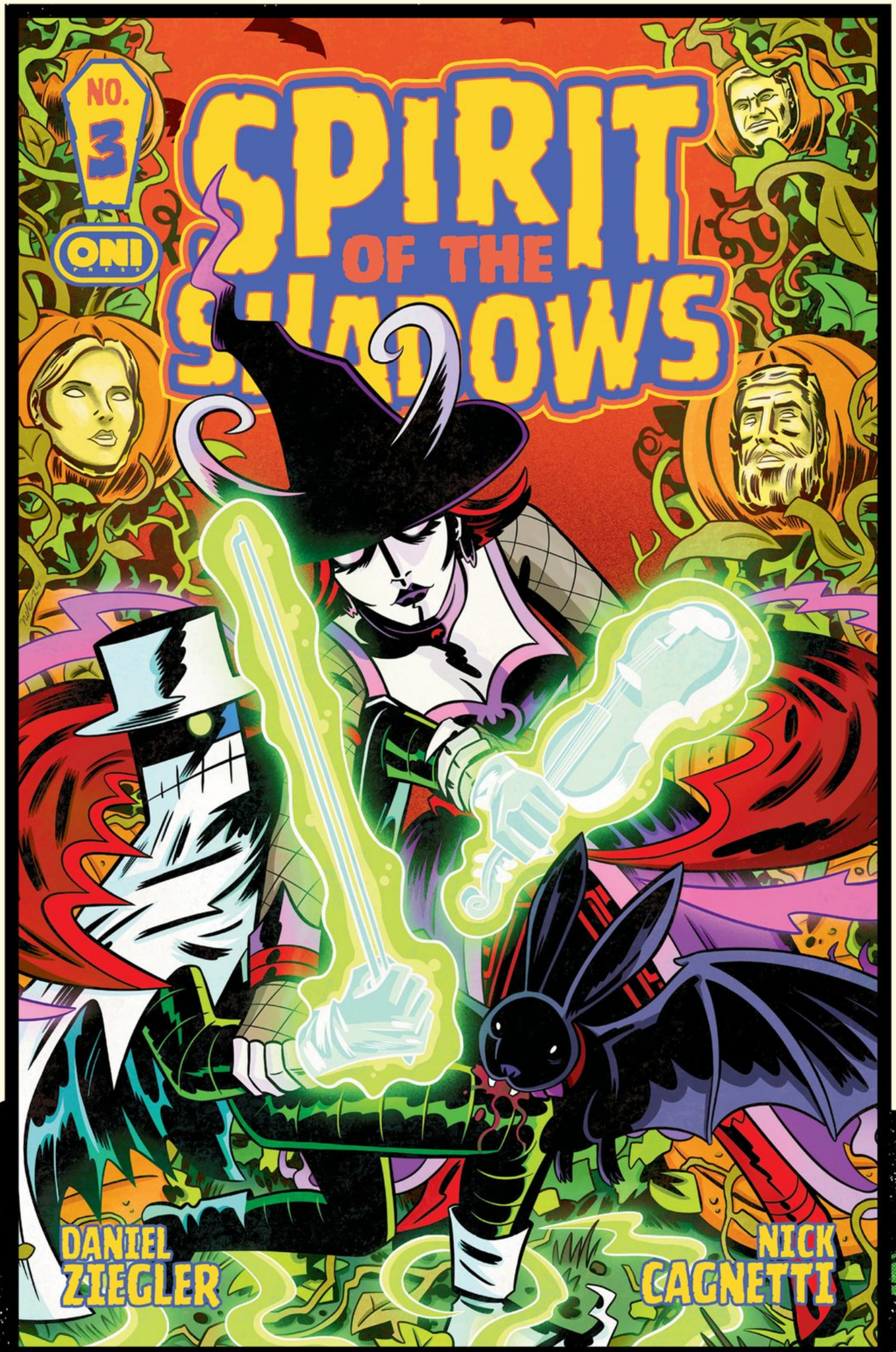
IT HAPPENED AGAIN...

VARINAC!
MORTICON!
ARRIVUS!

ERIK LEROUX

NEXT THE DISOBLIGING DOCTOR

ON SALE
MARCH 2026



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